ALICE. Ouy, vrayment, (sauf vostre grace) ainsi dit il.

K. HEN. I said so, dear Katharine; and I must not blush to affirm it.

KATH. O bon Dieu! les langues des hommes sont pleines des tromperies.

K. HEN. What says she, fair one? that the tongues of men are full of deceits?

ALICE. Ouy; dat de tongues of de mans is be full of deceits: dat is de princess[2].

K. HEN. The princess is the better English-woman. F faith, Kate, my wooing is fit for thy understanding: I am glad, thou can'st speak no better English; for, if thou couldst, thou wouldst find me such a plain king[3], that thou would'st think, I had

[a] —dat is de princess.] Surely this should be—"Dat *says* de princess." This is in answer to the King, who asks, What says she, fair one?" M. MASON.

I believe the old reading is the true one. By—"dat is the princess," the lady, in her broken English, means—"that is what the princess has said." Perhaps, the speaker was desirous to exempt herself from suspicion of concurrence in a general censure on the sincerity of mankind. STEEVENS.

3 — such a plain king.] I know not why Shakspeare now gives the king nearly such a character as he made him formerly ridicule in Percy. This military grossness and unskilfulness in all the softer arts does not suit very well with the gaieties of his youth, with the general knowledge ascribed to him at his accession, or with the contemptuous message sent him by the Dauphin, who represents him as fitter for a ball-room than the field, and tells him that he is not *to revel into duchies*, or win provinces *with a nimble galliard*. The truth is, that the poet's matter failed him in the fifth Act, and he was glad to fill it up with whatever he could get: and not even Shakspeare can write well without a proper subject. It is a vain endeavour for the most skilful hand to cultivate barrenness, or to paint upon vacuity. JOHNSON.

Our author, I believe, was led imperceptibly by

the old play to give this representation of Henry, and meant probably, in this speech at least, not to oppose the *soldier* to the *lover*, but the plain, honest *Englishman*, to the less sincere and more talkative *Frenchman*. In the old King Henry V, quarto, 1598, the corresponding speech stands thus ;